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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5613
INFO RUEAHLC/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUCNIAD/IGAD COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNSOM/SOMALIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIISS/CJTF HOA PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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STATE FOR AF, AF/E, CA/OCS:J.MARKEY, EB/TRA/OTP AND S/CT
LONDON, PARIS, ROME FOR AFRICA WATCHER
CJTF-HOA FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/13/2017

TAGS: CASC FAIR KHLS KAWC PTER ET

SUBJECT: AMIR MESHAL: STATUS OF DECISION

REF: STATE 48936

Classified By: ACTING POLITICAL-ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ERIC WONG. REASON:
1.4 (B) AND (D).

¶1. (S/NF) Per reftel, Ambassador delivered reftel points to Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum on April 13. FM Seyoum responded that the GOE would work in close consultation with the USG on this case in the coming days. MFA acting Director General for Europe and America Almaz Ameha said she would look into the case in greater detail.

¶2. (C) Senior GOE officials report that the GOE does not plan to issue any public statement following April 13 military proceedings on the status of foreign fighters captured in Somalia who are now in Ethiopian custody.

¶3. (S/NF) We understand from our contacts that:

-- The GOE will begin deportation proceedings next week for foreign detainees captured in Somalia who are to be released from Ethiopian custody. We do not know at this time who exactly has been, or will be, released. The GOE has not and does not plan, for now, to make any public announcements.

-- Several Arab countries, whose nationals will be released, have indicated privately to the GOE that they do not/not wish to have their detained nationals repatriated from Ethiopia to their home countries.

¶4. (S/NF) We will keep Washington apprised of breaking developments. We have also referred all press enquiries to the Department's press spokesman in Washington.

YAMAMOTO